



## RTCA in the District of Columbia

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in the District of Columbia offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in the District of Columbia will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Capital Trail Network Coalition** – The project goal to organize a coalition of trail users, advocates, managing agencies to work together for the creation of a network of multi-use trails in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. (Location: Washington, DC; Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, District of Columbia; and Arlington and Fairfax Counties, and Alexandria City, Virginia)
- **Groundwork Anacostia River: D.C.** – The project goal is to work within Ward 7 and the Anacostia River watershed to reclaim vacant and derelict lands, run youth development initiatives such as a Green Team and Urban Archaeology Corps, and reconnect neighborhoods to parks and open spaces. (Location: Washington, DC)
- **Park Prescriptions** – The project goal is to implement strategies that result in people regularly using the parks as a way of improving their physical and mental health. (Location: Washington, DC)

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in the District of Columbia contact:

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